

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS

HONOLULU

July 10, 2007

STATEMENT OF OBJECTIONS TO SENATE BILL NO. 1191

Honorable Members  
Twenty-Fourth Legislature  
State of Hawaii

Pursuant to Section 16 of Article III of the Constitution of the State of Hawaii, I am returning herewith, without my approval, Senate Bill No. 1191, entitled "A Bill for an Act Relating to Pedestrian Safety."

This bill appropriates \$1,500,000 in fiscal year 2007-2008 and \$1,500,000 in fiscal year 2008-2009 for projects that are designed to increase pedestrian safety. The bill would require the State Department of Transportation to submit an interim report to the Legislature for the 2008 regular session and a final report before the 2009 regular session.

While my administration strongly supports improved pedestrian safety, we are concerned about the adverse impact this bill creates on the State Highway Fund. The State Highway Fund has been decreasing as a result of increased efforts to address long-standing highway construction needs in the State. In fiscal year 2005-2006 the Fund had a balance of \$135,200,000. At the end of fiscal year 2008-2009, the Fund is projected to have a balance of about \$36,700,000.

In recognition of this decline, my Administration requested a \$72,000,000 cash infusion into the State Highway Fund to ensure that ongoing projects can continue. The Legislature did not approve this funding request. Diverting \$3,000,000 from the State Highway Fund will cause further

STATEMENT OF OBJECTIONS  
SENATE BILL NO. 1191  
Page 2

depletion of resources needed to match federal highway dollars and construct much needed roadways in our State.

The bill would allocate \$1,200,000 from State Highway funds as grants to the counties to purchase and install pedestrian-related changes on county roads and county intersections. The county fuel tax is already available for addressing these types of improvements on county roadways.

As noted in my July 5, 2007 communication to Speaker Say and President Hanabusa, the defect in this bill can be easily remedied by appropriating moneys from the General Fund rather than the State Highway Fund. I have asked the Legislature to make this amendment so that I may sign this measure for improved pedestrian safety. Without this amendment, which only the Legislature can enact, the bill is unacceptable.

For the foregoing reasons, I am returning Senate Bill No. 1191 without my approval.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Linda Lingle", written in a cursive style.

LINDA LINGLE  
Governor of Hawaii